Policies to boost rural and religious tourism

†4067. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government policies to boost rural as well as religious tourism;

(b) whether in order to boost domestic tourism alongwith foreign tourism, the updated brochure on the existing places of mythical and religious importance would be made available at various tourist centres by Government; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government so far for the publicity of such information alongwith details of policies to be adopted in future?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Creation of infrastructure in rural areas having potential for tourism is being supported under the existing scheme of destination development, while community participation and Capacity Building including skill upgradation in such rural areas are being supported through GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project. Religious Tourism is promoted as part of cultural tourism.

(b) and (c) Promotion and publicity of existing places of mythological, cultural and religious importance is part of the promotional programme involving production of tourist literature on different destinations which are distributed free of charge through India Tourism Offices in India and abroad as well as through tour operators and participation in travel fairs and exhibitions.

Vacant post of Director in the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

4068. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) since when the post of Director of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library has been lying vacant and reasons therefor;

(b) by when the post is likely to be filled up;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.